

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05
OMB-01 /100 W
-----281245Z 086276 /40

R 271657Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0384
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0295

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, UR, PU
SUBJ: SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUINEA-BISSAU

REF: STATE 109895 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH NUMBERS GAME IS OFTEN MISLEADING, EMBASSY TENDS
AGREE WITH ESTIMATE REFTTEL OF SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN
GUINEA-BISSAU OF APPROXIMATELY SIX HUNDRED ADVISORS. ESTIMATE
OF SOVIETS OF AS HIGH AS 400 IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY
FRIENDLY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. SOVIETS TEND TO STICK TO-
GETHER AND ARE FAIRLY EASY TO PICK OUT. OF THIS NUMBER,
EMBASSY CAN IDENTIFY SOME 150 ENGAGED IN NON-MILITARY
TECHNICAL ROLES PRINCIPALLY IN FISHING, EDUCATION AND
MINERAL RESEARCH. IN ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC LIST, EMBASSY
ESTIMATES SOVIET EMBASSY TO HAVE BETWEEN 30 AND 40 DIPLO-
MATS. ADDING TO ABOVE 180-190, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF
DEPENDENTS LEAVES RELATIVELY FEW MILITARY ADVISORS, AND
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TECHNICIANS, PERHAPS 80 OR 90. SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS WERE
PROMINENT DURING TANK MANEUVERS LAST WINTER, ARE ENGAGED
IN TRAINING GUINEAN PILOTS FOR MIGS, AND PROVIDE FULL
CREWS FOR TWO MIL-MI8 HELICOPTERS.

2. CUBAN PRESENCE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE AS
CUBANS, MOST OF WHOM ARE DARK SKINNED, BLEND EASILY INTO

BISSAU'S AFRICAN AND METIS POPULATION. ESTIMATES ON CUBAN PRESENCE VARY WIDELY AMONG OBSERVERS BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES 250 IS REASONABLE GUESS. WE CAN IDENTIFY SOME 50 OR 60 CUBANS IN NON-MILITARY ROLES, PRINCIPALLY MEDICINE. CUBAN EMBASSY HAS ABOUT 20 OR 25 EMPLOYEES. THERE ARE FEW DEPENDENTS. REMAINDER ENGAGED IN MILITARY TRAINING BOTH IN BISSAU AND IN INTERIOR. CUBAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR JOAQUIM MIRABEL DIAZ HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THERE ARE ABOUT 200 CUBANS IN GUINEA-BISSAU.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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